

Easement

HO-50

First Presbyterian Church

8328 Court Street

Ellicott City

Description:

The First Presbyterian Church is located on Court Street in Ellicott City, in northeastern Howard County, Maryland. The church is oriented with the tower and spire at the south corner, the nave along the northeast end, and a classroom at the southwest end with a vestibule at the west corner. The vestibule was apparently a pastor's study, while the tower contains the original vestibule. The First Presbyterian Church is a one-story cruciform church of squared rubble that is brought to course, and the stone is mostly granite with what appears to be some gneiss. There are traces of penciling on the mortar on the southwest elevation. There are buttresses at the bottom of the tower, one having a date stone with "1894" and "1842." There is a gable roof with slate. The west re-entrant angle has a one-story stone room and stone chimney, with this room having a roof that is almost flat. The tower vestibule has a herringbone brick floor with doorways that are one step up on both the northeast and northwest sides. The nave has two faux hammer beams of natural wood that sit on corbels on the northeast and southwest walls. On the southwest elevation are two interior windows that roll up into the wall. The northeast elevation has an organ in the center that fills the chancel. The organ was built by A. B. Felgemaker in Erie, Pennsylvania. The southwest room has a straight run of stairs down to the basement on the southeast side of the room.

Significance:

The First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1839 at Ilchester, but because of a need for more space, a new church was begun in Ellicott City in 1842 and finished in 1844. A need for space once again forced the church to make changes in 1893, but this time they decided to renovate and enlarge their sanctuary. During excavations in the basement in April the front of the building collapsed. Architect George Archer of Baltimore was called upon for a consultation and it was decided to pull down the walls and rebuild from scratch. Archer designed a Gothic Revival structure of local granite, in a cruciform plan with a bell tower in one angle. The church is an auditorium-type, with the pews set in semi-circular rows focused on the pulpit, much like the theaters that inspired the design. There is a Sunday-School room opening off the church to make the sanctuary expandable in a pinch, a feature that came to be known as the Akron plan. The church was essentially complete for its dedication on the 23rd of December, 1893.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Easement

Inventory No. HO-50

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic First Presbyterian Church
other Howard County Historical Society

2. Location

street and number 8328 Court Avenue not for publication
city, town Ellicott City vicinity
county Howard

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Howard County Historical Society
street and number 8324 Court Avenue telephone 410-750-0370
city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 348 folio 547
city, town Ellicott City tax map 25A tax parcel 231 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	0
			Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-50

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

The First Presbyterian Church is located at 8328 Court Street in Ellicott City, in northeastern Howard County, Maryland. The church is oriented with the tower and spire at the south corner, the nave along the northeast end, and a classroom at the southwest end with a vestibule at the west corner. The vestibule was apparently a pastor's study, while the tower contains the original vestibule. The First Presbyterian Church is a one-story cruciform church of squared rubble that is brought to course, and the stone is mostly granite with what appears to be some gneiss. There are traces of penciling on the mortar on the southwest elevation. There are buttresses at the bottom of the tower, one having a date stone with "1894" and "1842." There is a gable roof with slate. The west re-entrant angle has a one-story stone room and stone chimney, with this room having a roof that is almost flat. The tower vestibule has a herringbone brick floor with doorways that are one step up on both the northeast and northwest sides. The nave has two faux hammer beams of natural wood that sit on corbels on the northeast and southwest walls. On the southwest elevation are two interior windows that roll up into the wall. The northeast elevation has an organ in the center that fills the chancel. The organ was built by A. B. Felgemaker in Erie, Pennsylvania. The southwest room has a straight run of stairs down to the basement on the southeast side of the room.

Description:

The First Presbyterian Church is located at 8328 Court Street in Ellicott City, in northeastern Howard County, Maryland. The church is oriented with the tower at the south corner, the nave along the northeast end, and a classroom at the southwest end with a vestibule at the west corner. The vestibule was apparently a pastor's study, while the tower contains the original vestibule.

Exterior:

The First Presbyterian Church is a one-story cruciform church of squared rubble that is brought to course, and the stone is mostly granite with what appears to be some gneiss. There is a tower and spire in the south re-entrant angle, and a gable roof with slate. The southeast elevation has two small windows in the basement with two lights and stone lintels and a large stained glass lancet with a stone sill and voussoirs. The eaves are boxed and the eave boards follow the pitch of the rafters. The southeast elevation of the tower has a lancet on the first story with stained glass and an open lancet above. There are buttresses at the bottom of the tower, one having a date stone with "1894." There are also buttresses flanking the open lancets of the belfry where the wall steps back. The tower has a broached spire with an iron finial. The southwest elevation of the tower has steps below a lancet opening with double doors. There are three panels on each leaf of the door, with diagonal bead board, and the edges of the rails and stiles are chamfered. The buttress to the south has a date stone with "1842." The upper half of the tower matches that on the southeast. The southeast elevation of the

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southwest arm has two lancets with stained glass windows. The south face of the three-sided bay has one lancet window, the southwest elevation has a lancet with a small window in the basement that has a granite lintel and the west face has a single lancet window. The northwest elevation of this southwest arm has two lancet windows. There are traces of penciling on the mortar on the southwest elevation.

The west re-entrant angle has a one-story stone room and stone chimney, with this room having a roof that is almost flat. This one-story room has a wood box cornice with a roll moulding for a bed mould. The southwest elevation has a lancet door with diagonal bead board, and the northwest elevation has a typical lancet window with stained glass. The northwest elevation of the nave has a window that matches the southeast, with the sill set just above ground level. The ground here slopes down to the southeast and the southwest. There are traces of penciling that survive in this location, too. The northeast elevation of the nave has two typical stained glass lancets on the first story on each side of the chancel. The chancel has a typical stained glass lancet on the northwest elevation and the southeast elevation. The northeast elevation of the chancel has a pair of six-light casements in the basement and a stained glass lunette in the gable end. The southeast elevation of the chancel, at the basement level, has a four-panel door with a stone lintel. The door has sunken fields and quirked ogee-and-bead panel moulds, and is set in a beaded-interior-edge mitered frame. The ridge of the chancel is set lower than that of the nave. The basement of the northeast elevation of the nave, at the east end, has a doorway that was converted from a window and has a granite lintel. There is mortar where the frame was, and there are now three concrete steps down, with the walls being patched at the bottom and with some brick on the jambs. There is a new door in this opening.

Interior, first story:

The tower vestibule has a herringbone brick floor with doorways that are one step up on both the northeast and northwest sides. These doorways have granite sills. The walls have half wainscot of beaded-edge boards with a rail at the top of the wainscot with a quirked ogee and bead mould. The front door has architrave with a torus backband and a bead on the inner edge; the architrave has a natural finish. The door has diagonal beaded-edge boards. There is a cast bronze escutcheon that has a lancet profile and a bronze knob with a quatrefoil on it. The window on the southeast has splayed parged jambs, and the bottom sash is hung on chains. The sash has stained glass that has a yellow border and a clear pressed-glass field in the center made up of diamonds and elongated octagons. There are double doors on the northeast elevation, with splayed parged jambs. The doors are natural wood covered with faux leather; beneath the faux leather is a lock rail with only a wood cross buck above it and nothing below the lock rail. The lock rail and cross buck are both raw wood and appear to be original, though it is not clear whether this door was covered with leather or fabric from the beginning. The door never had a lock, just Suffolk door pulls. The door is hung on large cast iron butt hinges with ball finials and springs to draw them closed. The transom above the door also has faux leather with nothing beneath it. The northwest elevation has a doorway with splayed jambs and a single door that is identical to the

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northeast doors. It has a transom that matches the northeast transom. The ceiling of the tower vestibule has bead boards with a hatch in the center with a moulding around the opening.

The nave has 2 1/2-inch pine tongue-and-groove flooring that runs northeast-southwest and has typical wainscot matching the tower vestibule, with plaster above. There is a cove cornice in natural finished wood on the northeast and southwest elevations of the nave with a vaulted ceiling that is flat in the center. There are two faux hammer beams of natural wood that sit on corbels on the northeast and southwest walls, and these beams probably provide some slight structural support for the roofing. The beams are chamfered with lambs tongue stops and have wood brackets at each joint. On the southwest elevation there is a door to the vestibule on the southwest end, and it has splayed jambs. The transom bar has a quirked Greek ogee and bead and a small cavetto below the bead. In the center of this wall are two interior windows that roll up into the wall, with 24 lights of 15-inch by 20-inch crazed glass; the window sash have a natural finish. The windows are set between the hammer beams with a doorway to each side that is just outside of the hammer beams. The architrave is symmetrical and mitered at the corners, with fielded panels that have ogee and ovolo panel moulds. The doorways have the same architrave, and the doors have one light of the same glass over two panels that have sunken fields and quirked Greek ovolo panel moulds. The doors have a mortise lock with a brass knob and brass butt hinges with ball finials. There is a one-light transom above each door.

The northwest and southeast elevations each have a large lancet window of matching stained glass. These large windows are made up of three lancets with a large rose window in the top center. The glass has a lilac border and center with a yellow field of diamond lights in between, and brown circles at the top and bottom and around the lilac center. The rose window has a lilac border, a light margin, and a yellow field with brown starburst in the center that has four points with edges that spread into the field as intertwining tendrils. These windows have splayed jambs and wood sills. The northeast elevation has an organ in the center that fills the chancel. The organ was built by A. B. Felgemaker in Erie, Pennsylvania. It has a dark oak paneled cabinet that is taller in the center with fluted pilasters on each end, a plain frieze, egg and dart bed mould and an ogee cornice. There is a two-panel hinged top in the center of the cabinet and five panels above this hinged top. On either side of the keyboard are six panels in two columns of three rows. All of the panels have sunken double fields with bolection mouldings. There are 21 pipes above the center of the cabinet. To each side of the center of the cabinet is a lower paneled section with a two panel door and one panel outside of the door. The doors give access behind the organ. Above the doors is an ogee cornice that swells out over the door, with leaves below the swelling that form a bracket. There are eight pipes above the cornice on each side, five of which bow out over the bracket. The edges of the plaster wall behind the pipes are chamfered, though this detail is mostly hidden by the organ now.

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Flanking the apse with the organ on the northeast elevation are two lancet windows on each side with stained glass in the same pattern as the vestibule window but in different colors. They have a yellow border with a yellow-green center and dark purple between the two. These windows also have splayed jambs with wood sills. The plaster walls in the nave are hollow, suggesting the walls are studded out. The opening to the chancel has a lancet arch. In front of the chancel and the organ is a dais with two steps below it at the northwest and southeast ends. The ends of the dais are curved and have bead boards. The front of the dais is five panels of natural varnished pine, with sunken fields and cavetto and bead panel moulds. The southeast end aligns with a jog in the wainscot, while the northwest end extends well northwest of the corresponding jog in the wainscot. There is a patch in the floor of the dais near the organ that aligns with the jogs and it appears that the dais was extended out, maybe when the organ was installed. The lectern here is believed to be original to the building and is a squat fluted column with a Corinthian capital. There are some original pews, which are curved and have a round panel in the center of each end. These are no longer attached to the floor.

The chancel has the same flooring as at the edge of the dais and the same wainscot as the nave. The southeast wall has a stained glass window with splayed jambs, and the pattern matches the simpler windows with flesh-colored border, blue margin, and pressed clear glass in the field. There is a red bull's eye at the top. The northwest wall has a matching window. The ceiling follows the rafters and collar beams and is painted light blue with stenciled gold rosettes. The northeast wall has a round stained glass window set up high on the wall, and it has a dark blue field with two cherubs, one with a horn and one with what appears to be cymbals.

The southwest room has the same flooring as the nave, and it runs northeast-southwest. The wainscot and walls also match the nave, and there is a flat ceiling. The windows and doors from the nave all open into this room, and the southwest end of the room is three-sided. The windows have the same pattern as those in the vestibule, on the southeast and northwest sides, and have a brown border, with yellow and brown glass in the center field. The lancet window on the southwest end has a similar but slightly different pattern with a lilac border and yellow and lilac in the center field. The two windows on the angles of the southwest end match the pattern of the center window, but have a brown border and lilac and brown in the field. There is a straight run of stairs down to the basement on the southeast side of the room, and it descends to the northeast. The stairs have a balustrade of narrow bead board, and this bead board is narrower than that used in the wainscot. The northwest wall has a doorway in it, set to the north, with four panels that have sunken fields and quirked Greek ovolo panel moulds. The door has brass butt hinges with ball finials and a brass mortise lock. It is constructed with through tenons with wedges, but with no pins. The doorway is a lancet opening with a two-panel blind transom, and the panels match the door. The transom bar has one panel that is sunken and flat. There is a hatch in the center of the ceiling that gives access to the attic.

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The northwest room has typical flooring that runs northwest-southeast, typical architrave on the doorway, and a flat ceiling that cuts off the transom over the southeast door. There is a new flush wood door on the southwest elevation, with a lancet profile, and this was converted from a window. Above the door is a crack in the wall in a lancet profile indicating where the window opening originally was. On the northwest elevation is a window with splayed jambs and a sash similar but in a simplified pattern to the others; this window is smaller and has peach colored glass in the border and clear textured glass in the center, with a blue margin between them. The room has typical wainscot, and in the north corner is a chimney that extends into the room.

Interior, basement:

The basement mostly has linoleum on the floor, the walls are furred out and have drywall, and there is a drop ceiling of Homosote with battens. There is a passage at the bottom of the stairs that runs to the northeast and has carpeting over wood flooring and bead board on the walls. There are two doors on the northwest side of this passage that lead into an excavated area under part of the southwest room; most of this space is still crawlspace with dirt walls. The southwest door has four panels with sunken fields and no panel moulds, and the architrave has a triple broken field. The door is hung on stamped plate butt hinges with pins, and there is a porcelain knob, but the lock is not visible. The northeast door has six panels, with the small panel set in the center, and the panels are sunken and flat and have no panel moulds. The architrave and hinges match the southwest door, and there is a plain cast iron rim lock with porcelain knobs. The southwest cellar room has a floor that is raised one step and is made of butted boards. The northeast wall was a low rubble stone wall with granite ashlar piers on it that support beams for the flooring above. The foundation is set right beneath the wall between the southwest room and the nave, and does not appear to be related to the foundations of the earlier church. The joists above are circular-sawn, run northwest-southeast, are 3 inches by 12 inches, and are spaced 16 inches on centers. There is bridging between the joists that is made of tongue-and-groove boards fastened with wire nails.

It appears that only the center section of the basement under the nave and the northeast cellar room were originally excavated. The basement under the nave is open in the center, with the southeast end walled off by a modern wall and a two-light casement, and the northwest end walled off with Homosote on studs. The northwest wall has two doors, the southwest door having four panels and having been cut down and flipped so that the frieze panels are now at the bottom. This door has sunken fields and quirked ogee and bevel panel moulds. It has stamped plate butt hinges with pins that are fastened to the old lock rail, and has a cast iron rim lock. The current hinge stile has an inset slide bolt, suggesting that this door was half of a pair of double doors. The architrave is symmetrical and is sunken in the center with ogee moulds to each side, and there is a bead on the inner edge; it also has bull's eye corner blocks. The northeast door is identical to the southwest, but has no slide bolt, and it leads to a powder room. The southwest door leads to an excavated area with a furnace under the west corner of the nave and the vestibule, and this is still mostly crawlspace here with dirt walls. The doorway into this room has brick

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on the edges finishing off the rubble stone foundation wall, with cut stone piers supporting a summer beam that runs northeast-southwest. The northeast wall of the center section closes off the area under the chancel, and has a four-paneled door that was a swinging door but otherwise matches the doors on the northwest. This door has been since cut in half to make it a Dutch door, and is hung on cast iron foliate butt hinges with ball finials. The hardware for the door swing is on the soffit and the floor. The doorway has plain mitered trim.

The northeast cellar room floor is several feet lower than the doorsill on the southeast elevation, and there must have been steps down into here originally, though there are none now. The southeast door has four panels with sunken fields and quirked ogee and bead panel moulds. It has butt hinges with pins and a cast iron rim lock with a *fleur de lis* pattern. The window on the east has a sill that is about 16 inches lower than the sash, but it is not possible to tell if this was in-filled later. There is a pair of six-light casements on butt hinges with pins. It appears that this room was the original access to the basement, and may have functioned for coal storage for a furnace in the center under the nave.

Interior, attic:

The attic over the southwest room has circular-sawn timbers. The tie beams are 3 inches by 9 inches and lap the principal rafters, with a diagonal iron strap around each of these joints. There are blocks of wood that are added to the side of the tie beam and the rafter to fill out this joint. The principal rafters are 2-1/2 by 8 inches. There is a single common rafter set between each pair of principal rafters, and the common rafters are 2 inches by 6 inches. All of the rafters are of one piece from the plate to the ridge, and they are mitered at the ridge and butted. There is a "king post" of two 2 1/2-inch by 8-inch pieces of timber that lap the tie beam in the center and the rafters at the ridge; these king posts have paired collars about midway up and two-thirds of the way up on the post, and these collar beams also lap the principal rafters and the "king post." There are struts that are also paired and lap the rafters just below the bottom collars and lap the tie beams near the king post. There is a purlin on top of the struts to support the center of the common rafters. All of these joints are fastened with cut nails. The three-sided southwest end bay has a cross-braced truss in the center of it to support the center of the hip rafters and common rafters. The diagonal ends of this truss have iron straps connecting them to the bottom cord. The top ends of the struts have iron plates where they connect with the horizontal in the truss. There are iron rods connected to these iron plates, and they extend down to the bottom cord. The ceiling joists are fastened to this bottom cord. Some of the rafters in the southwest end have plaster burns, indicating that they are reused.

On the nave attic, the principal rafters are toe-nailed with cut nails to the plate, and are mitered and butted at the ridge. There are two collar beams across each pair of principals, with the lower collar beam having iron straps at the joint. There are also scissor braces that span from a ledger board fastened to the side of the plate up to the opposite principal rafter. The ceiling of the nave is fastened to the

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bottom half of each of these scissor braces, and to the bottom side of the lower collar beam. There are purlins that are notched to lap the principals and are nailed to it; this is the only connection that the purlins have, and they are intended solely to support the center of the common rafters. There is a truss set across the lower collar beams in the center of the nave from which the chandelier hangs. This framework is interlaced with the roof structure and was probably assembled in pieces at the same time. There is a space between the nave wall and the southwest room wall for the windows to slide up into, and when they are raised they are exposed in the attic. The windows have a cord attached to each end of the sash and another in the center that runs up to a pulley on a collar beam, then runs over to the center and down through the ceiling to the middle of the wall below it.

The middle stage of the tower has two wood trusses mid-way up the wall, each with three horizontals. The top horizontal chord is set close to the middle one, with three short posts between them. There are two posts below the middle chord, set close to the walls, with braces from the foot of the posts up to the center. There is also a vertical iron tie rod in the center, between the bottom and middle chords. The top chords of both trusses support horizontals that run in the opposite direction. All of the horizontals are set into the stone walls. The corners of the stone walls begin corbelling in 4 to 6 feet above the floor, with each corner starting at a different height. The corners of the belfry above are stone in an "L" plan. The floor of the belfry is parged, with the sides of the belfry between the corner piers open to the floor.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates N/A

Architect/Builder George Archer

Construction dates 1893

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary:

The First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1839 at Ilchester, but because of a need for more space, a new church was begun in Ellicott City in 1842 and finished in 1844. A need for space once again forced the church to make changes in 1893, but this time they decided to renovate and enlarge their sanctuary. During excavations in the basement in April the front of the building collapsed. Architect George Archer of Baltimore was called upon for a consultation and it was decided to pull down the walls and rebuild from scratch. Archer designed a Gothic Revival structure of local granite, in a cruciform plan with a bell tower in one angle. The church is an auditorium-type, with the pews set in semi-circular rows focused on the pulpit, much like the theaters that inspired the design. There is a Sunday-School room opening off the church to make the sanctuary expandable in a pinch, a feature that came to be known as the Akron plan. The church was essentially complete for its dedication on the 23rd of December, 1893.

Significance:

The First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1839 at Ilchester, on the Baltimore County side, under the influence of Thistle Mills owner George Kerr. The church catered to the English and Scotch-Irish residents of the Patapsco River valley at Grays, Union Mills (Oella), Thistle Mill (Ilchester), and Ellicott's Mills, and they worshipped in a mission chapel built by the Thistle Mills Company. Because of a need for more space, a new church was begun in Ellicott City in 1842 and finished in 1844, but it is not clear why the congregation chose to move. Celia Holland speculated that Ellicott City was the fastest-growing community in the area at that time which was probably accurate. The site they chose was high on a hill overlooking the town, next to the rising courthouse that had been begun the previous year. The new building was a simple, but handsome, rectangular Greek Revival stone structure of two bays by three bays, with ashlar on the gable end that held paired entrances. There were pilasters at the corners and the stone in the gable end was set in the plane of the pilasters, creating a shadow line across the façade in line with the top of the capitals. The doorways had a wide, plain stone surround. The

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windows seem to have had large sash with multiple, small lights. The building was set into a slope, with the façade facing the courthouse, and the chancel end had an exposed basement. Part of this basement was usable space, and there were windows in the center and chancel-end bays of the basement. At this time the church was under the pastor-ship of Rev. S. Guiteau, and following completion of the church a manse was built in 1850. Rev. Henry Branch took over the church in 1882.¹

A need for space once again forced the church to make changes, but this time they decided to renovate and enlarge their sanctuary. In 1894 it was recalled: "As far back as the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the organization of the Church in 1889 the matter of improving the church was considered and a plan prepared by the architect. Business depression and removals from the congregation discouraged the people and the plans were laid aside." These plans were revived in 1893, and in January 1894 a committee for renovating the building provided estimates for various proposed work:

"Estimated new roof on the church, shingles and work
Shingles & work – \$125.00
Metallic ceiling without cost of putting on \$250.00
Windows \$25 each 8 in N^o – \$200.00
Painting the church \$250.00
New seats for " & work \$325.00
Total cost of repairs \$1,150.00"

The committee also requested an estimate for a tower for the church and was told that it would cost \$1,350, putting the whole cost of repairs at \$2,500.00. The trustees accepted all of the improvements except for the tower because "many of the members were of the opinion we could not raise the money to build the tower at the present time." At this time they began soliciting donations to pay for the work.²

Before the end of January the trustees already had over \$1,200 subscribed for repairs and had decided not to use a \$1,000 bequest from Mrs. Piper for the repairs. They were obviously encouraged by this

¹ "Presbyterians built first at Ilchester," *Ellicott City Times*, Century Edition, pasted in Session Minutes, First Presbyterian Church, Ellicott City. Celia Holland, *Ellicott City, Maryland: Mill Town, U.S.A.* (Tuxedo, MD: Author, 1970), pp. 187-88. Joetta Cramm, *Historic Ellicott City: A Walking Tour*. 2nd ed. Woodbine, MD: K & D Limited, Inc., 1996, p. 84.

² *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 1 September 1894. Minutes of the Board of Trustees of First Presbyterian Church, Ellicott City, 10 January 1894.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-50

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

start, and moved that Rev. Branch was "hereby authorized to see a good architect to draw a good plan of a tower suitable for our church to go in the centre of the east end of the church building and submit it to the board of trustees." A month later at a special meeting of the congregation the building committee had already raised \$1,500, and it was determined to spend \$3,000, borrowing \$1,500. There was no mention of the tower, but this must have been driving the decision. Other changes were in the works, too. It was resolved to put a "tin roof" on the church instead of the wood shingles, that the windows would be "arched," the church would be painted on the interior and pointed on the exterior, and "on motion a com.^{1c} was appointed to ascertain or examine the basement of the church to enlarge the Sabbath School room." At the end of March it was reported: "The committee appointed at the last meeting of the trustees to examine the basement of the church in order to dig it out so as to enlarge the Sabbath School Room, reported favourable and said it would cost about \$300." They were instructed to get specifications from Mr. James Gaither and contract with him for the work. This decision would prove to be fateful for the congregation.³

At the same time approval was given to purchase the tin for the roof, and the trustees were also trying to raise money for a baptismal font or memorial window, and get the county commissioners to repair the steps leading to the church. In early April the contract to excavate the basement of the church was signed and "on motion the two plans of towers were submitted. On motion the tower to be put at the east corner of the church was adopted." The trustees were not done with improvements, however, noting: "On motion a committee of five were appointed to go to Baltimore to consult the architect in reference to some changes and prepare it in order to submit it for contract." The architect was not named and the contemplated changes not enumerated, unfortunately. Both the Methodist and Lutheran churches offered their spaces to the Presbyterians while the work was going on, though the church arranged to use the courthouse instead. The location would have enabled all the members to watch the progress of the renovations. On 21 April 1894 the *Ellicott City Times* reported: "The work of enlarging the Sunday School room of the Presbyterian church is progressing satisfactorily. The additional room acquired will be of decided advantage to the school in several ways. Rev. H. Branch is in possession of two drawings of the proposed improvements in the church proper. One has a tower at the front end and the other a tower at the center next to Dr. Byrn's residence. The trustees have adopted the latter plan but have not yet fixed a date for connecting the work." They would never get a chance.⁴

A week later the newspaper reported:

³ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 26 January, 25 February, 30 March 1894.

⁴ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 25 February 1894. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 21 April 1894. The newspaper articles were transcribed by Rev. Lyle Buck and John Foltz, and provided to me by Laura Hampton, for which I am grateful.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-50

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

"A severe disaster happened in the Presbyterian church here Tuesday morning at about eight o'clock. As has been stated in the Times, enlargement of the Sunday School has been going on by digging in the ground toward the front foundation. This part of the work was finished and masons were at work building a wall against the exposed earth (which, by the way, was composed principally of rotten granite) to better secure the foundation wall above. They had partially completed their work when a suspicious noise was heard above and they left their work to make an investigation. Before they got around, the entire front of the building came down with a crash. The workmen, who were William Brian and Joseph Myers, masons, Alfred and Alle Williams, colored laborers, were astonished and gratified as, had they remained a moment longer they would have been buried in the debris. A number of the stones which composed the wall weigh fully a ton and the floor nearly half way to the rear of the building was crushed and, as a matter of course, many of the pews are badly wrecked." The doorways and all of the stone between them, from ground level to roof ridge, came down. Several days later at an emergency meeting of the trustees it was noted that "the joists of the floor were rotted in the wall to about half way of the church." This could not have contributed to the collapse of the wall, but may have contributed to the stones bringing down the floor.⁵

As a result of this meeting a committee was appointed "to invite Architect Mr. George Archer of Baltimore to meet the com^{tee} on Wednesday to examine the walls of the church now standing to ascertain if they are safe. If not safe the committee was authorized to get Mr. G. Archer Architect to draw a plan for a new church building." The architect for the tower was never given, but most likely the church had already been working with Archer on it, so it would have been only natural to call on him for help with this problem. In the meantime, "James Gaither was ordered to get out of debris all the cut stones and lay them safely aside." George Archer was born near Churchville in Harford County, Maryland, in 1848 and graduated from Princeton University in 1870. He was employed by Baltimore architect George A. Frederick before establishing his own practice in 1875. He was responsible for work at Johns Hopkins Hospital and numerous churches, dwellings, hospital and asylum buildings, and other structures throughout Baltimore City and the surrounding counties before his death in 1920. By the end of April Archer had examined the remains of the building and it was decided to pull down the walls and rebuild from scratch.⁶

⁵ *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 28 April 1894. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 24 April 1894. Photographs of the earlier church, before and after collapse, are in the possession of the congregation, and copies can be found at the Historical Society of Howard County.

⁶ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 24 April 1894. Irma Walker and James T. Wollon, Jr., "George Archer (1848-1920)", typescript, 1993. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 30 April 1894.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-50

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

The church planned to sell the surviving pews to raise some money and had the chandelier removed and stored in a safe place. What eventually became of it is not known. Originally it was decided that a legacy of \$1,375 from the late Mrs. Piper would not be spent on the church building, but by the time the building was nearing completion the congregation had reconsidered this. To further reduce the cost some labor and materials were donated. The stone was provided from elder C. F. Rappanier's granite quarry, and was hauled at no charge by James Gaither. Most of the labor and material for the furnace was also donated. Archer quickly provided a plan, to which the congregation made some alterations, and the estimate for the cost of the new structure was \$6,000.⁷

The church plan, with the proposed amendments, was described by the newspaper in early May: "Instead of two stories the main auditorium and Sunday school room will be on the same floor. The later will be directly to the rear of the main room and will be so arranged as to throw the two rooms into one. The seats of the auditorium will be placed in circular form. The style will be Gothic with a tower." A later description added more detail, noting that the church "... will be of granite using the stone of the old building as far as it will go. The main auditorium will be 32 by 58 feet to be connected with sliding doors to the Sunday School room which will form an octagonal wing. When thrown into one there will be seating for 200 people. The tower will be granite part way up and end with a spire rising 100 feet. The roof will also be of slate. The interior of the church will be finished with oiled white pine with a ribbed plaster ceiling. There will probably be several memorial windows. The entire cost of the church will be about \$8,000." The church is an auditorium-type, with the pews set in semi-circular rows focused on the pulpit, much like the theaters that inspired the design. This type of church became popular in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and emphasized hearing the word of God over ritual. One of the earliest and most notable of this type was the First Methodist Church (Lovely Lane) in Baltimore, designed by Stanford White, partner of the New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, in 1884. Archer would have known of this church. There are several features common to auditorium-type churches that are lacking from First Presbyterian, however, including a sloped floor with stepped seating and a gallery. Both were probably not included because of the additional cost they would have added to the building and the lack of need for that much additional space. These churches also commonly had a stage with a proscenium arch that focused attention on the pastor, with the organ set behind him, and all of these features can be found at First Presbyterian.⁸

⁷ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 26 January 1894, 2 December 1894, 16 December 1894, 30 April 1894. The plans have not survived.

⁸ *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 5 May 1894, 4 August 1894. Jeanne Halgren Kilde, *When Church Became Theater: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in Nineteenth-Century America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-50

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

The design that Archer provided is very similar to several plans published a few years earlier by Benjamin D. Price a Philadelphia architect who worked for the Methodist Church creating "modern" church plans for small town and rural congregations. Price published books of plans beginning c. 1875, and his designs can be found all over the east coast. He often placed the Sunday-School room opening off the church to make the sanctuary expandable in a pinch, a feature that came to be known as the Akron plan. It was the result of changing perspectives on children, the rise of the Sunday-School movement, beginning in the late-eighteenth century, and the professionalization of both the secular and, later, religious, education of children. Cruciform arrangements were common with Price, often with a tower placed in a re-entrant angle and the Sunday-School room and choir forming half of the cross. The *Ellicott City Times* noted after the church was complete: "the building is cruciform, the pulpit forming the head, the Sunday school room the lower part, while the main auditorium completes the cross. This form was more of an accident than design as in order to carry out the idea of throwing the two rooms into one it was necessary." Designs 61 and 31 by Price are especially similar to the First Presbyterian Church plan. Given how quickly Archer presented plans to the congregation, it is possible Archer copied Price's plan or used them in discussions with the congregation to provide a direction, but these ideas could have been floating around elsewhere, too. Price mostly designed frame churches, and some brick ones, because they were cheaper, but it would have been easy for an architect to adapt a plan for stone. Archer did make some changes, most notably by putting a hexagonal end on the Sunday-School room. This enabled him to make the room narrower, so that the tower and small room flanking the Sunday-School room did not project beyond the nave of the church. This made the cruciform configuration read more strongly. Where plan 61 had a classroom next to the Sunday-School room, Archer put what was most likely a Pastor's study.⁹

The rising cost projection for First Presbyterian Church was the result of having solicited bids for the construction, which were received in July. The bids were as follows:

Clinton Smith contractor bid \$9,380

W. Gerwig " " \$8,400

J. Kirwin " " \$8,450

A. M. Carroll " " \$6,597

F. A. Wayland " " \$6,457

On motion Mr. F. A. Wayland's bid for the church was accepted.

⁹ Kilde, *When Church Became Theater*. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 29 December 1894. Sandra L. Tatman, "Benjamin D. Price," biography, *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*, www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab. *Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages Furnished by the Board of Church Extension, M. E. Church*. Philadelphia, 1889.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-50

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

The building committee recommended raising \$2,000 more because "... \$8,000 will be required to complete the church." Ground was broken in late July and a contract with Wayland signed a few days later. Laying of the cornerstone was projected to be in September, with completion of the church in December. The first date was met, with the trustees noting that "... the stone used in the first church was dressed cut to fit the buttress in the tower and dated 1842 and 1894." Thomas Kirby was the master mason for the construction. The walls must have gone up quickly because by 6 October the rafters had been raised and sheathing and slating the roof was projected to start the following week. On 27 October it was reported: "the roof, which is slate, is on and the first coat of plastering is finished. The stone part of the tower ... is nearing completion." The windows were made by the Atlanta Glass Co., the pews by the Globe Furniture Co., the bell by Regester & Sons, of Baltimore, the installation of the furnace and the duct work by J. C. Fisher, of Ellicott City, who donated his labor, and the carpet by Inwald Kaiser & Co.¹⁰

By the beginning of December the bell had been placed in the tower, but the steeple had not been slated. The pews had arrived and the carpet was to be laid before they were installed. The stained glass windows had been installed, and "now since the walls have been pointed the outside present a very neat and handsome appearance." The furnace was also complete, and the congregation could confidently set the date for dedication on the 23rd of December; their second date would also be met. A day before the dedication a clock made by Ellicott City watchmaker U. Jenneret and framed in wood to match the trim in the church was hung, the organ was installed, and the Sunday School seats, communion service, and baptismal font had arrived. The furnace was in operation and it was noted that "the windows on the outside are now protected by wire screens." The electricity was installed by Rev. Branch and his son, and was also ready for the dedication. As noted by the local press, it was more than just functional. "High Gothic arches make the belfry. These arches have electric lights which when aglow at night give a pleasing effect." Marquis lighting, such as placing lights along the soffit of arches, is something often associated today with amusement parks, but was common on all sorts of buildings at this time as a way to show off what the new electric lights could do and add drama to the building at night. Everything from the White City of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago to theaters to courthouses and churches were given this decorative treatment. The first electric power generated in Ellicott City was in 1891, when Herman Shriver headed a company that purchased the Old Hawes Grist Mill (a.k.a. the Depot Mill) on Tiber Alley and converted the building to a power plant. The only thing that seems not to have been ready for the dedication was "the elegant circular window which is to adorn the back part

¹⁰ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 19 July 1894, 16 September 1894. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 1 September 1894. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 6 October 1894, 27 October 1894. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 14 January 1895. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 1 December 1894.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-50

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7

of the pulpit, [which] on account of a mishap in the manufacture, failed to arrive this week as expected."¹¹

The original organ was replaced with the existing one in 1913, though the only mention in the minutes was a brief note that there were discussions with an organ manufacturer; no explanation was given for the discussions, and no mention was made of the installation of a new organ. The other significant change to the building came the following year. The minutes record in November 1914: "The [Presbyterian] Brotherhood was granted permission to excavate and fit up club room in basement of the church . . .," and the following month more explicit directions were given for the work to be done. These allowed the Brotherhood "to excavate sufficient earth to permit of an eight foot ceiling between floor level and joist; to excavate that portion under lecture room to be used as a stairway to a depth of 8 inches less than the club room proper, to construct a bench wall at foot of wall next to tower and for a small space on side next to road – said wall to be of concrete 14 inches wide, 12 inches below floor level and to rise 15 inches above said floor level – (27 inches) and to cut out portion of wall next to furnace room." The basement, of course, was already partly excavated as a result of the work on the earlier building. There is no evidence that any part of the earlier structure survives within the basement of the existing church. At the same time that the Brotherhood was further excavating, the church was renovated for its twentieth anniversary by replacing the furnace and carpeting, and having the pews re-varnished.¹²

A new church was built in 1960 off of Route 108 near Route 29 in Columbia, and the historic structure was purchased by Mrs. James Clark, Sr. and donated to the Historical Society of Howard County, in memory of her late husband, to serve as its headquarters. The church continues to function as the museum and meeting space of the society.

¹¹ *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 1 December 1894. Joetta Cramm, *Historic Ellicott City: A Walking Tour*. 2nd ed. Woodbine, MD: K & D Limited, Inc., 1996, p. 68. I am indebted to Laura Hampton for bringing this to my attention. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 22 December 1894, 29 December 1894.

¹² Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 25 November 1914, 13 December 1914, 20 December 1914.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-50

See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .201 A
Acreage of historical setting .201 A
Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are the the property lines for map 25A, parcel 231, which encompasses all of the surviving historic structures.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	July 2009
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

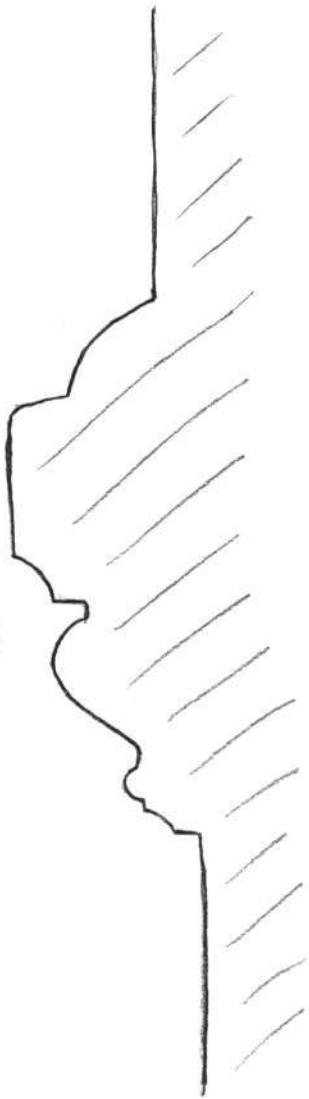
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

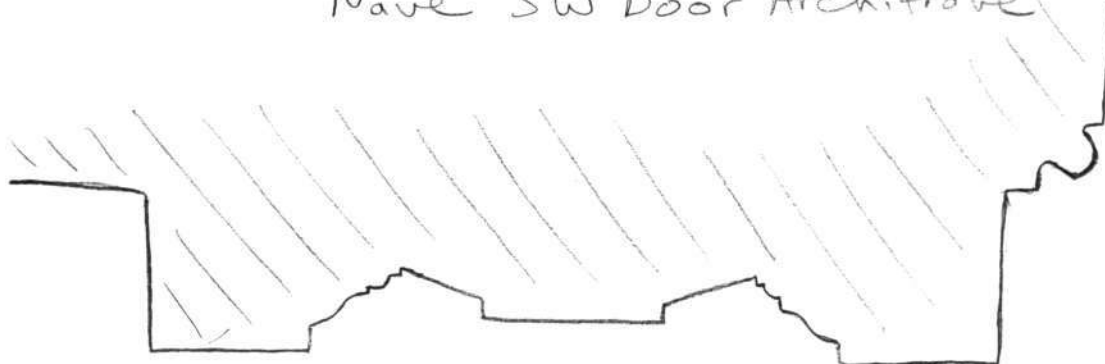
1/1

First Presbyterian Church 40-50
Moulding Profiles

KMS
15 Jan '09



Chair
Rail



Nave SW Door Architrave

NOTES:

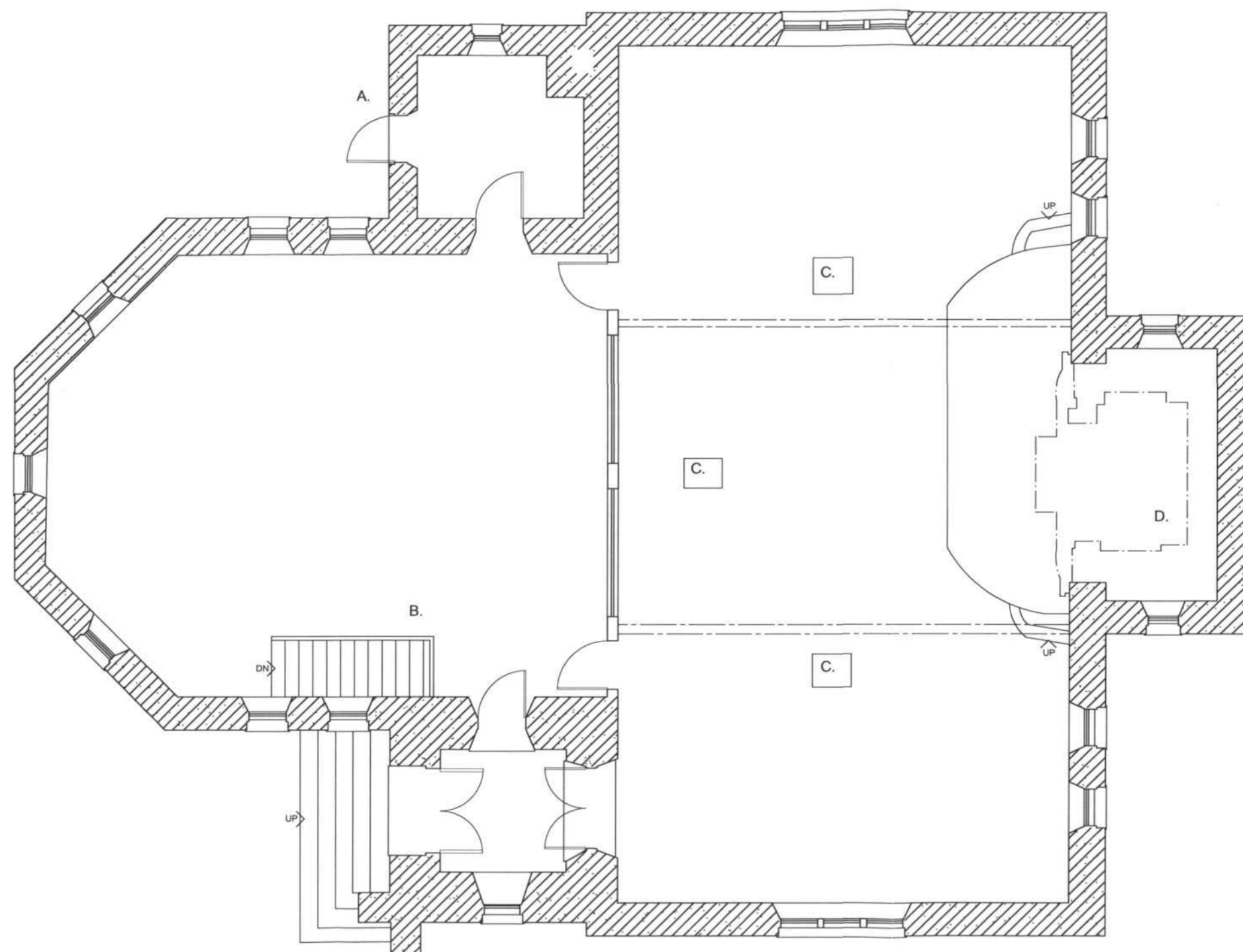
A. WINDOW CONVERTED TO DOOR C. 1960.

B. STAIRWAY ADDED.

C. PATCHES FOR EARLIER HEATING GRATES.

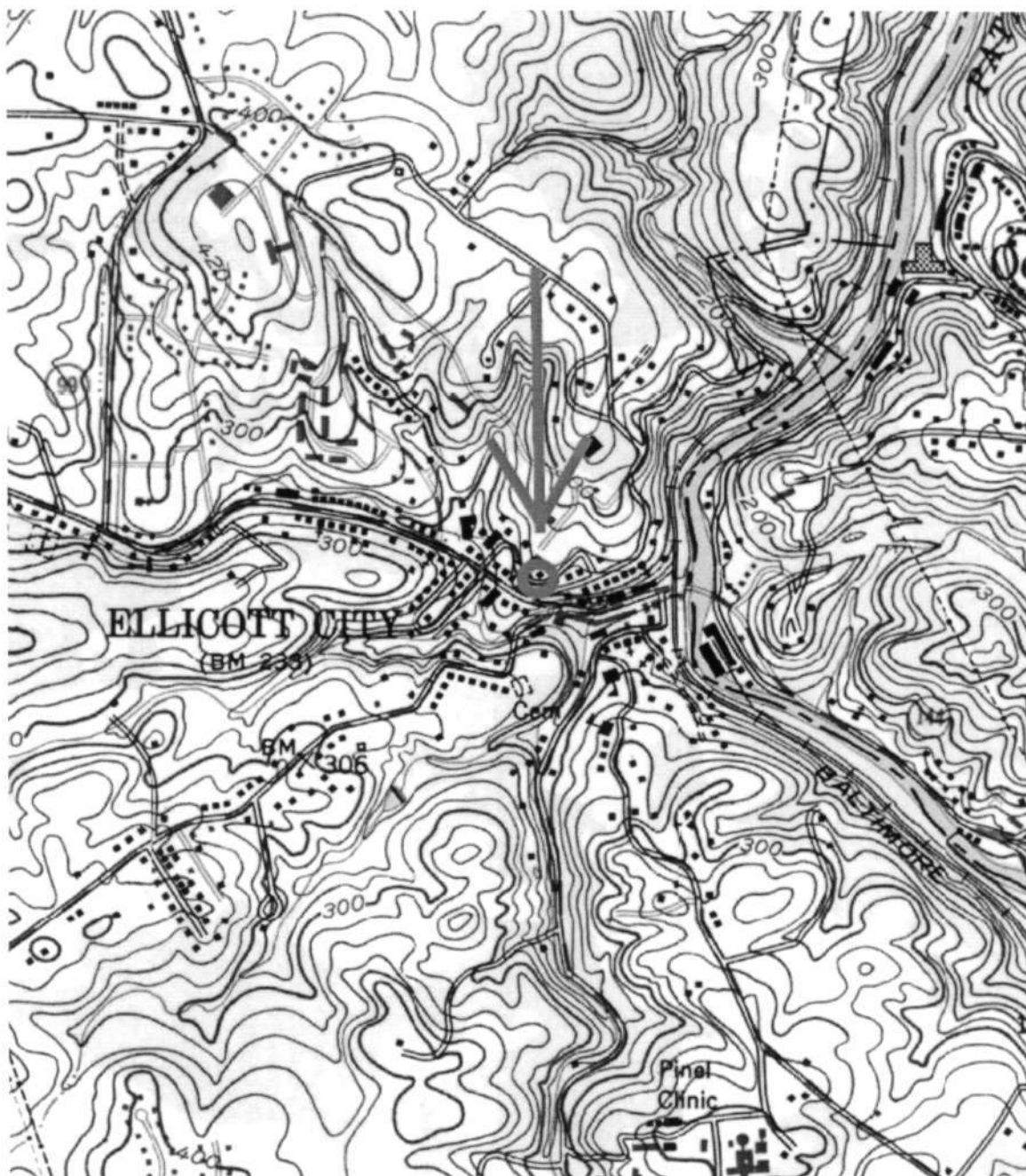
D. FOOTPRINT OF ORGAN AND CASE -- INSTALLED 1915.

E. CURVED PEWS MOVABLE -- NOT SHOWN.



HO-50 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 8328 COURT AVENUE, ELLICOTT CITY

FIRST FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT AND STEVE ROLLS -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- FEBRUARY 2009



HO-50
First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City
Ellicott City quad

HO-50
First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0050_2009-01-29_01
Southeast elevation

HO-0050_2009-01-29_09
Chancel window

HO-0050_2009-01-29_02
Southwest elevation

HO-0050_2009-01-29_10
Chancel ceiling

HO-0050_2009-01-29_03
Northwest elevation

HO-0050_2009-01-29_11
Bottom part of roof framing over
classroom

HO-0050_2009-01-29_04
Northeast elevation

HO-0050_2009-01-29_12
Top part of roof framing over classroom

HO-0050_2009-01-29_05
Nave, view north

HO-0050_2009-01-29_13
Tower framing

HO-0050_2009-01-29_06
Nave, view south

HO-0050_2009-01-29_14
Hot water heater in basement

HO-0050_2009-01-29_07
Nave, northwest window

HO-0050_2009-01-29_08
Nave, chandelier



HO-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Howard Co. Md
Elliott City
Ken Short, photographer

1-29-09

10 of 14

South east elevation



Ho-50
First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Ellicott City Md.
Howard Co. Md.

Ken Shart, photographer

1-29-09

2 of 14

Southwest elevation



Howard County
Historical Society
MUSEUM
100 West Washington St. Frederick, MD 21701
Hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Admission: \$5.00
Donations: \$10.00

40-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Elliott City Md
Howard Co. Md.
Ken Skant, photographer

3 of 14

1-29-09

Northwest elevation



H0-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Ellicott City Md.
Howard Co. Md.

Ken Short, photographer

4 of 14

1-29-09

Northeast elevation



H0-50

First Presbyterian Church
2328 Court Ave. Ellicott City Md.
Howard Co. Md.

Ken Shant, photographer

1-29-09

5 of 14

Dave, view north



48-50

First Presbyterian Church

8328 Cant Ave. Elliott City Md

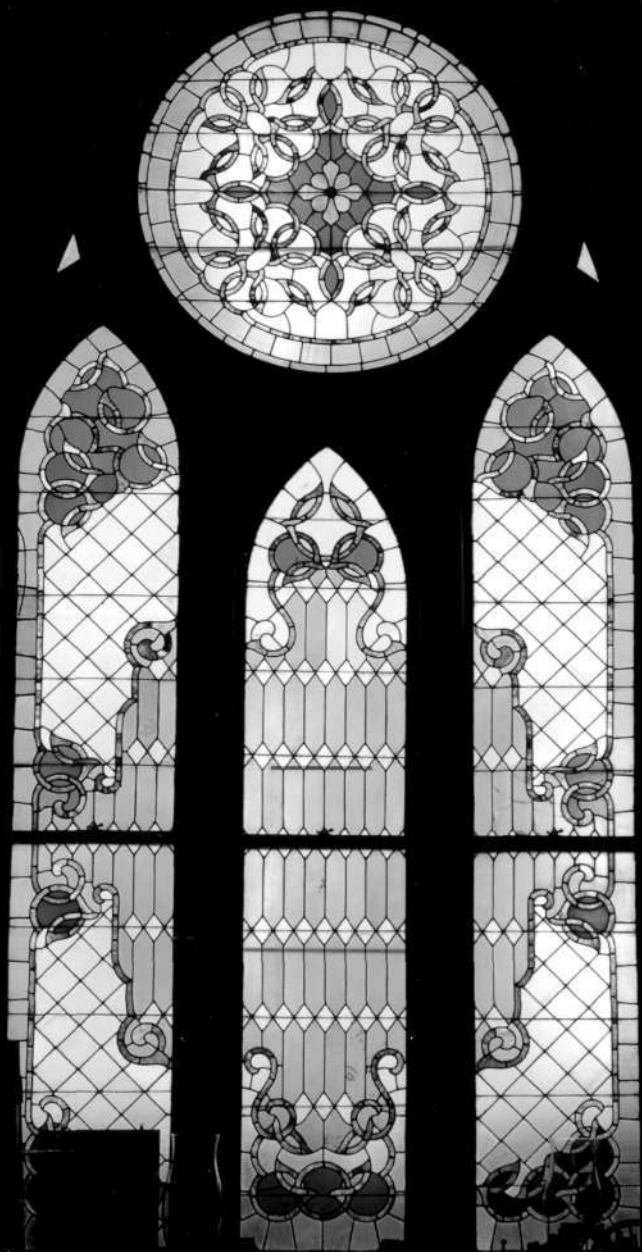
Howard Co. Md.

Ken Skout, photographer

1-29-09

6 of 14

Nave, view south



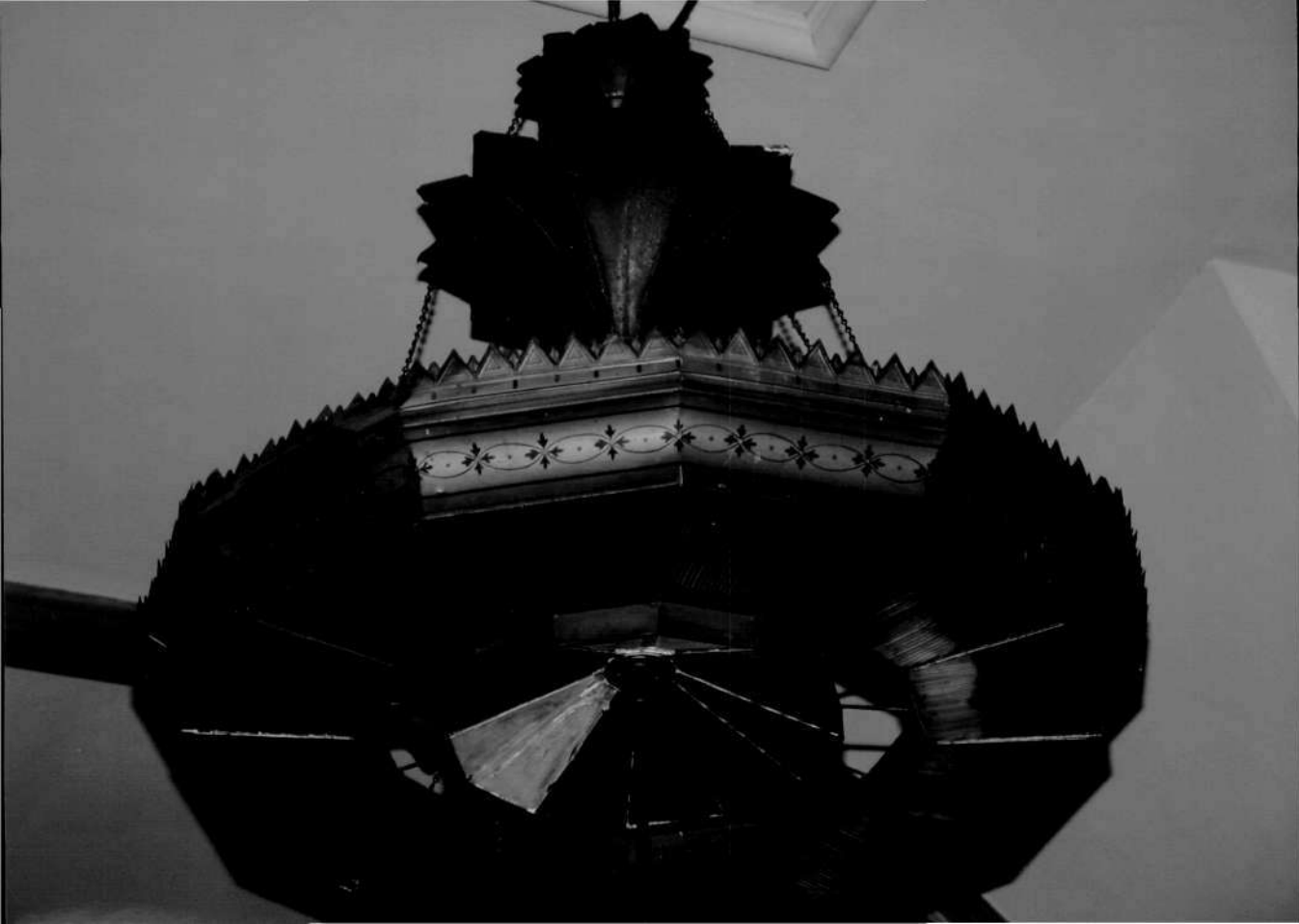
40-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Ellicott City Md
Howard Co. Md
Ken Short, photographer

1-29-09

7 of 14

Nave, northwest window





H0-50



First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Elliott City Md
Howard Co. Md
Ken Shart, photographer

1-29-09

8 of 14

Have, chandeliers







H0-50

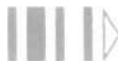


First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Ellicott City Md.
Howard Co. Md.
Ken Shart, photographer

1-29-09

9 of 14

Chancel window







40-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Ellicott City Md
Howard Co. Md.

Ken Shart, photographer

10 of 14

1-29-09

Chancel ceiling







HO-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave, Ellicott City Md
Howard Co Md
Ken Short, photographer

1-29-09

11 of 14

Bottom part of roof framing over
classroom





HO-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Elliott City Md
Howard Co. Md.
Ken Start, photographer

1-29-09

12 of 14

Top part of roof framing over
classroom



HO-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Court Ave. Ellicott City Md
Howard Co. Md.

Ken Skout, photographer

1-29-09

13 of 14

Tower framing



H0-50

First Presbyterian Church
8328 Cant Ave., Ellicott City Md.
Howard Co. Md
Ken Short, photographer

1-29-09

14 of 14
Hot water heater in basement

Easement

HO-50

HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1894

Private

Ellicott City

This marvelous granite Gothic revival style building constructed in a cruciform plan once housed the First Presbyterian Church and now serves as headquarters and repository for the Howard County Historical Society. It is characterized by steeply pitched intersecting gable roofs, double-hung Gothic stained and leaden glass paned windows featuring curvilinear patterns and a tall square entrance and bell tower which rises to a height of a hundred feet. The Gothic arched double entrance and all the fenestration of the building are characterized by stretcher stone gothic arched lintels. The central projecting bay (north axis) of the north wall holds a rose window picturing two cherubs, the east-west transept holds identical east-west tripartite windows featuring a central rose and three gothic windows within a large gothic arch, while the south axis which holds a reception room gives the outward feeling of an ambulatory in a medieval church with its semi-hexagonal south end crowned by a semi-conical roof giving an almost Romanesque feeling to what would otherwise be characterized as neo-Gothic in style.

Easement

1400504603

HO-50
District 2

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Howard County Historical Society Building				
AND/OR HISTORIC: First Presbyterian Church				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 8328 Court Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City,				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Howard		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Howard County Historical Society				
STREET AND NUMBER: 8328 Court Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City		STATE: Maryland		21043
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records				
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Court House				
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City		STATE: Maryland		20143
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax Map 25A, p 231				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS 348/547 .201 acres				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1977 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland		21401

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

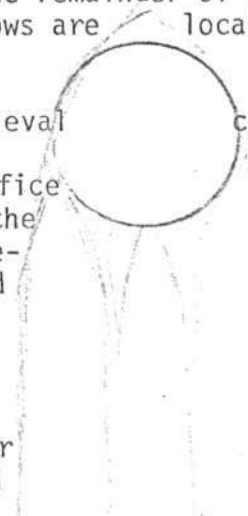
This marvelous granite Gothic revival style structure built in a cruciform plan once housed the First Presbyterian Church and now serves as headquarters for the Howard County Historical Society. The building is characterized by steeply pitched intersecting gabled roofs, double-hung Gothic stained and leaden glass paned windows featuring curvilinear patterns and a tall square entrance and bell tower from whence rises to a hundred feet, a tall church spire. The Gothic arched entrance way is decorated with a stretcher stone Gothic arched lintel.

The north wall has a central projecting bay which holds a rose window picturing two cherubs and circular stone decoration along with a basement casement window holding six-six lites surmounted by a flat stone lintel and centered into this projecting bay.

The east and west bays of the north wall each hold two double-hung Gothic arched windows, similar to those already described decorated with stretcher stone gothic arched lintels. A basement door, holding nine lites, is located in the east bay surmounted by a flat stone lintel.

The east and west walls of the transept hold identical tripartite gothic windows composed of a rose window in the upper portion of the gothic arch with three gothic windows fitted into the remainder of the space. See Figure 1. In addition two two lite cellar windows are located in the east wall of this transept.

What would ordinarily be an ambulatory in a medieval church becomes a reception room for the congregation. It is wide (one bay is used as an entrance into a small office west and into the entrance foyer on the east) while the maining bays hold gothic windows similar to those described. The east and west walls of the reception room extend and meet at a south wall forming a semi-hexagon at south end crowned by a semi-conical roof which with granite blocks used in construction gives a french feeling to an otherwise gothic revival church. A stone chimney rises from the base of the south corner east wall of the transept, while the other vertical the square bell tower rises from the base of the used as an entrance foyer. (see Plan) Each of the four walls of the bell tower are opened by a gothic archway and crowned by a tall, conical roofed spire. A corner stone on the south east corner of the entrance has the date 1842, which must be the date of the formation of the first church and not the building of today which was constructed in 1894.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1894

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Historical Society</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1837 a Presbyterian Church was founded in Thistle Mills now Ilchester. The congregation was composed of Scotch and English residents of the Patapsco Valley, who lived between Union Mills, now known as Oella and Thistle Mills. In 1839 twenty-three charter members formed the church. In 1842-44 an edifice was built on the site of the present building but collapsed when excavations were made to enlarge a basement Sunday School room and declared a total loss because of it. The building was completely rebuilt in 1894 with George Archer as architect and completed within six months, a notable accomplishment to say the least.

It was constructed of granite quarried locally, supposedly from a quarry at the foot of Main Street. An extremely fine example of the Gothic revival style which flourished at that time, it is constructed in the cruciform plan and characterized by steeply pitched intersecting gabled roofs and double-hung Gothic stained and leaden paned glass windows featuring curvilinear patterns. The transept or arms of the cross and the north axis hold the original worship area, now used for meetings, while the south axis, the base or foot of the cross, holds a reception room. This south axis appears on the exterior as a sort of medieval ambulatory with its semi-hexagonal south end crowned by a semi-conical roof giving an almost Romanesque feeling to what would otherwise be characterized as neo-Gothic in style.

In 1960 the parish outgrew the existing building and Mrs. James Clarke, Sr. bought it and presented it to the Howard County Historical Society. It now serves as a repository for various historical documents, records and books and is used as the headquarters of the Society, which opens periodically to the public.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holland, Celia - Ellicott City, Maryland 1772-1972. Bladensburg, 1972.
American Association of University Women. Mimeographed paper on Historic Ellicott City. Ellicott City, 1972.
Map of Historic Ellicott City, 1867. Mrs. Jean Hannon - Ellicott City 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Tax Map 25A, p. 231

348/547

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Office of Planning and Zoning		DATE
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Court House Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

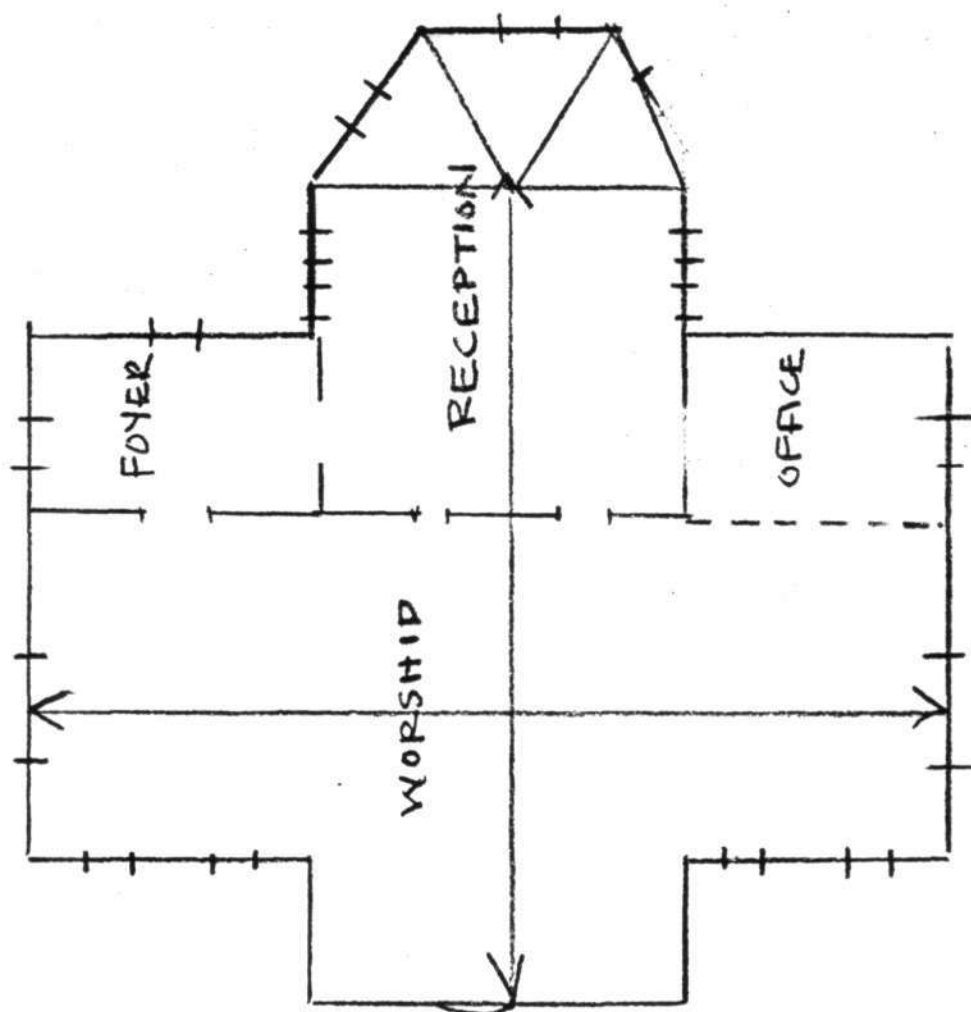
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

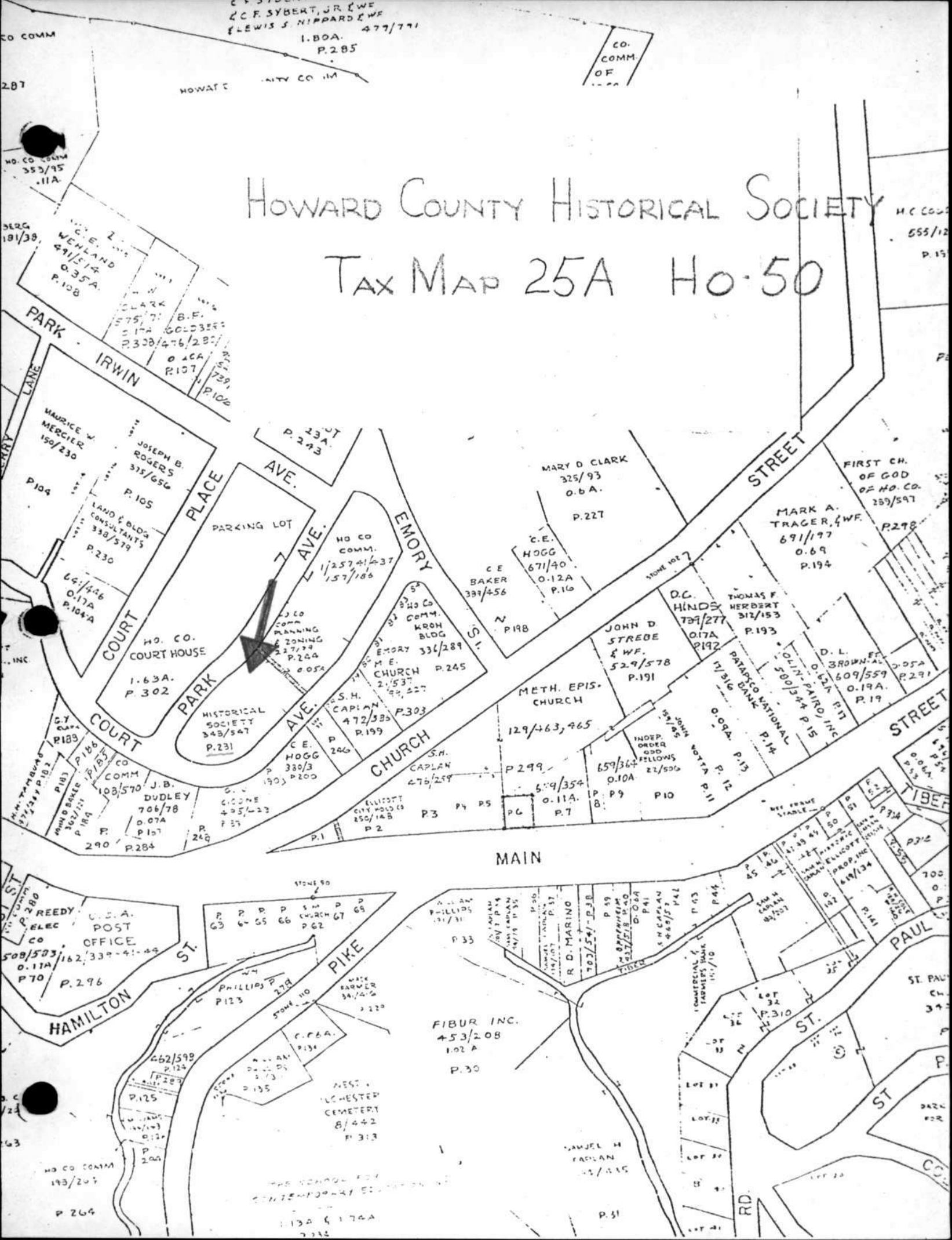
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



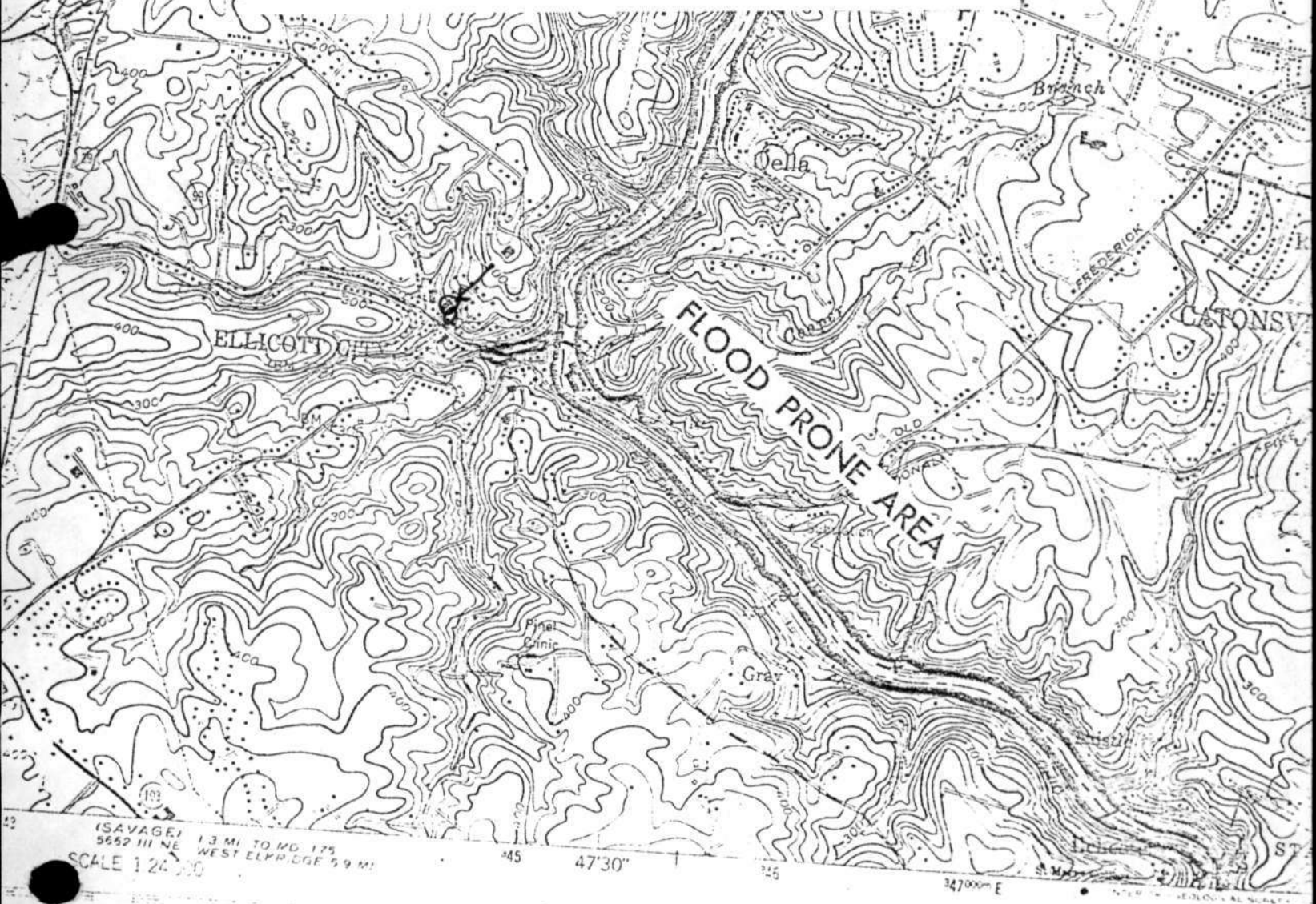
HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY PLAN

HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tax Map 25A Ho-50

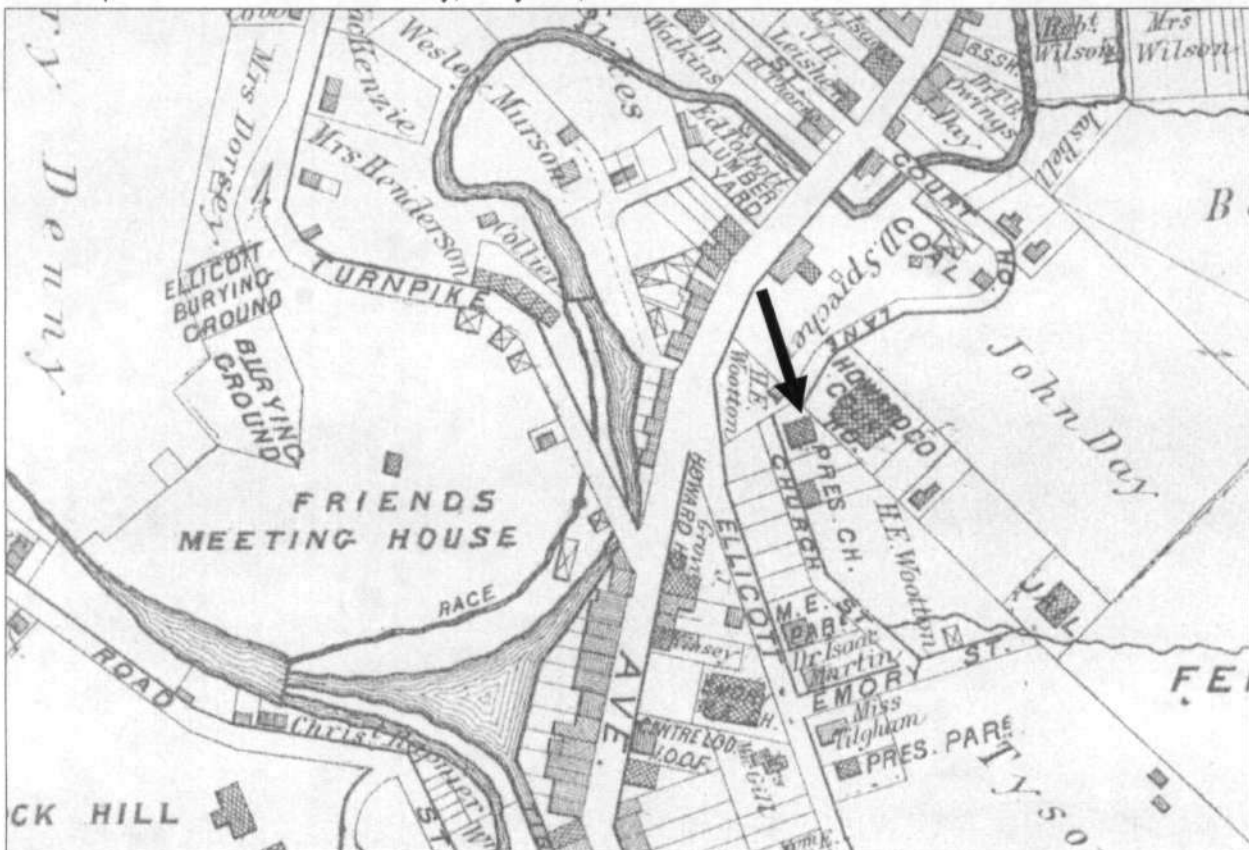
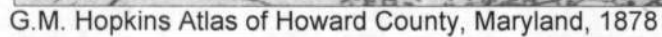


HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BUILDING HO-50
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAP
ELLICOTT CITY, MD. QUAD



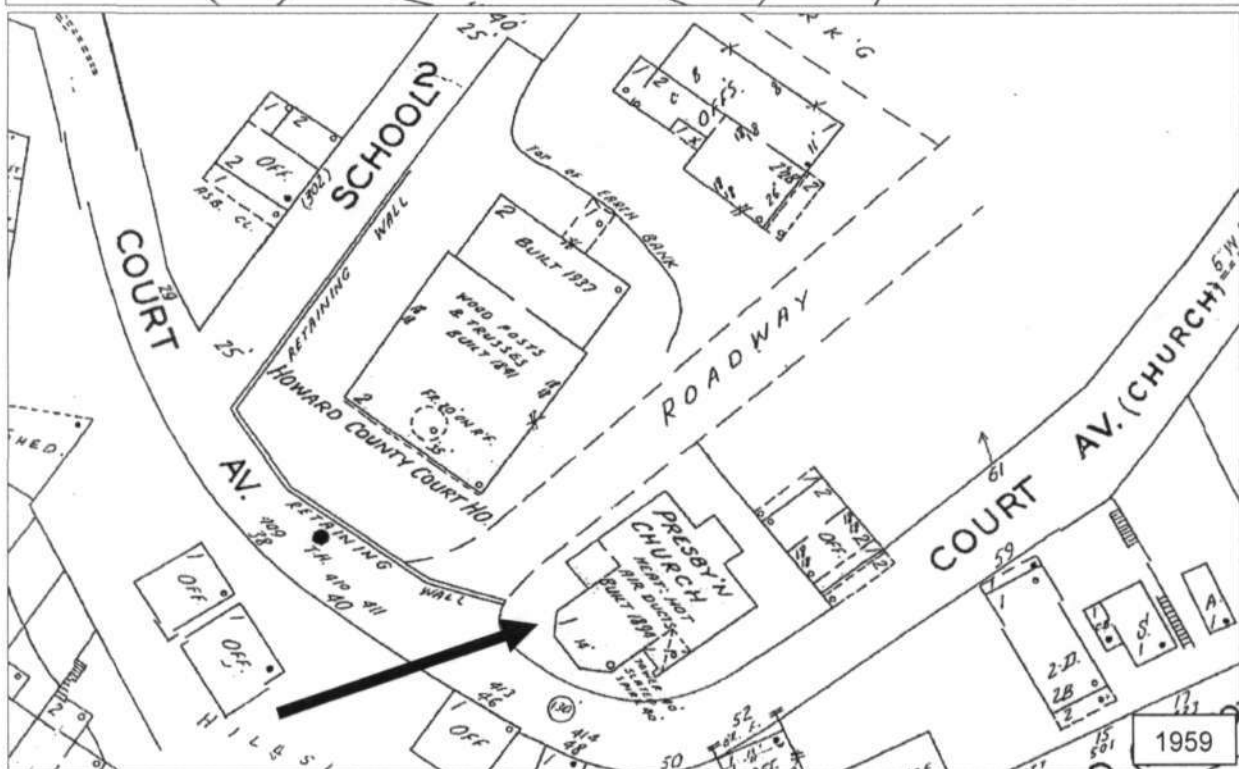
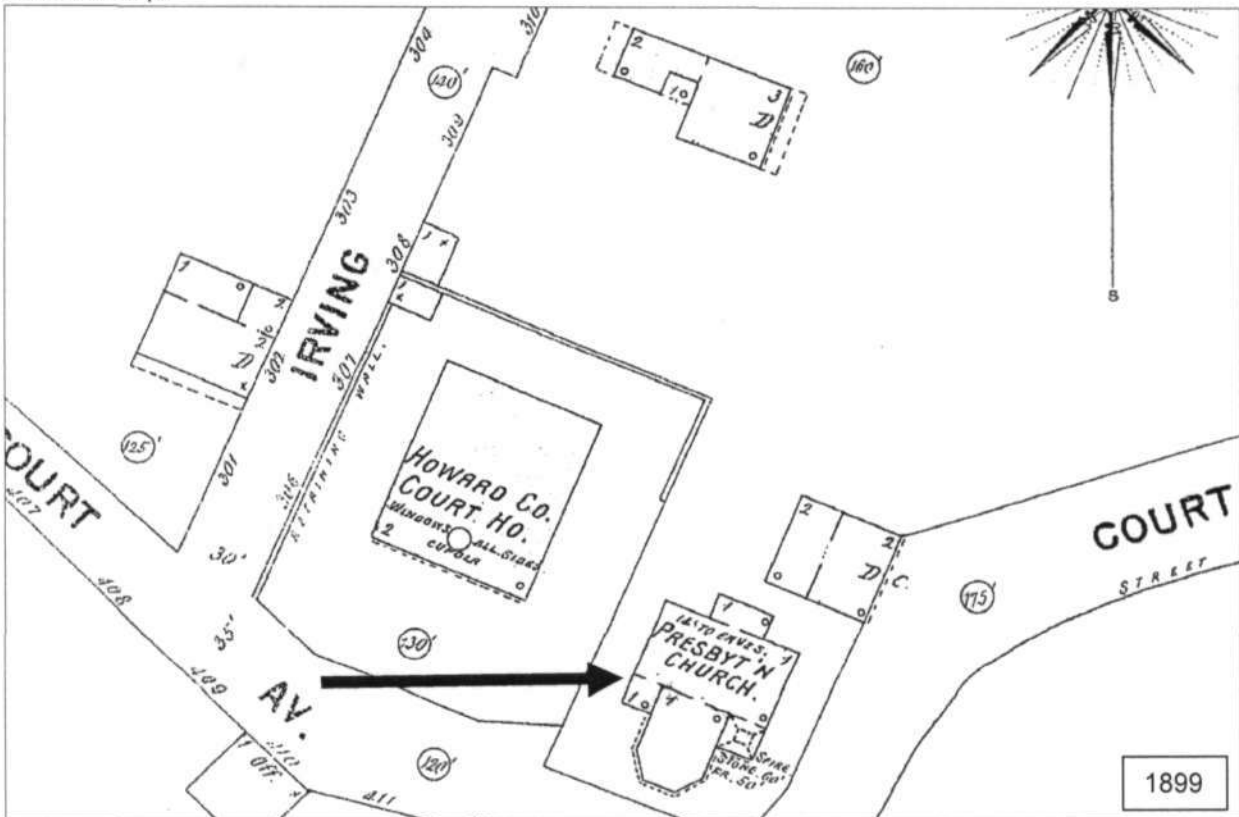
First Presbyterian Church (Howard County Historical Society Building)

Martenet's Map of Howard County Maryland, 1860



HO-50

First Presbyterian Church (Howard County Historical Society Building)
8328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City
Sanborn Maps

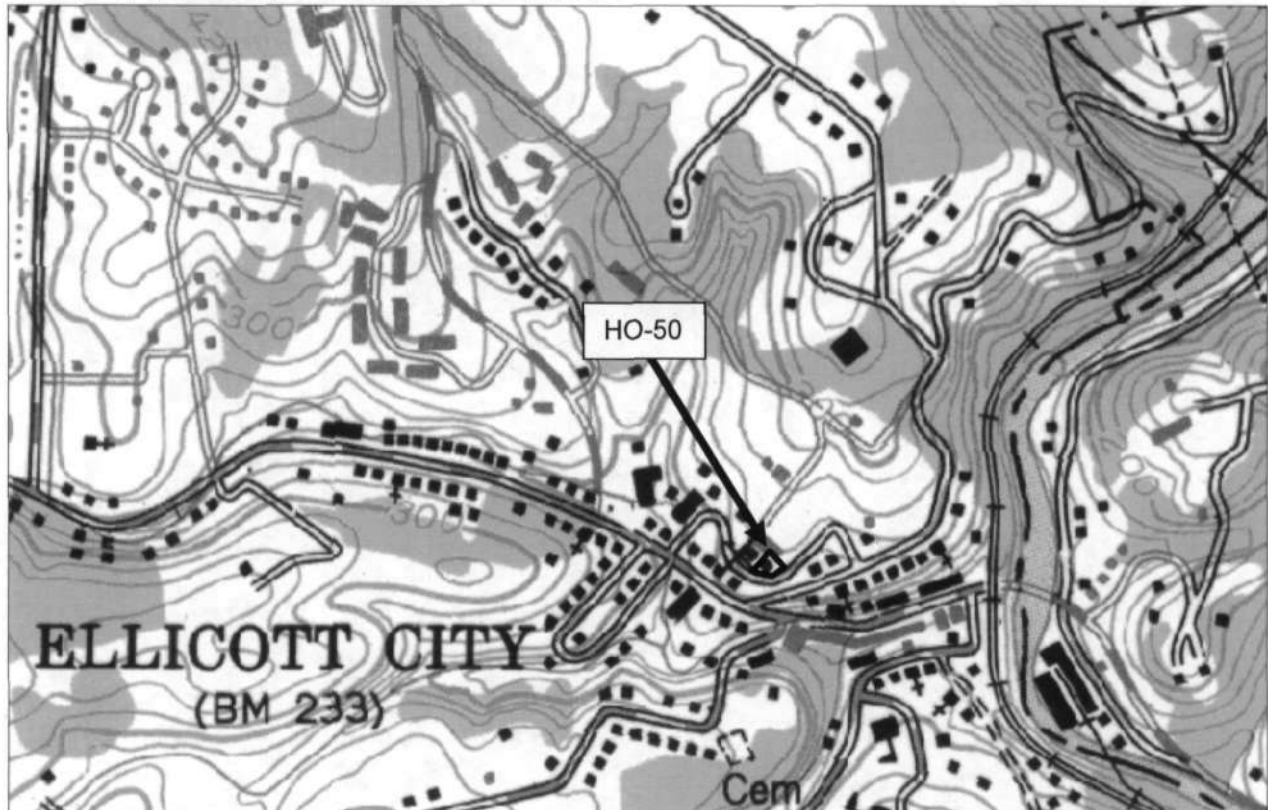


HO-50

First Presbyterian Church (Howard County Historical Society Building)

8328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City

Ellicott City quad 1953, Photorevised 1966 and 1974



Tax Map 25A, Parcel 231

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010



HO-50

First Presbyterian Church (Howard County Historical Society Building)

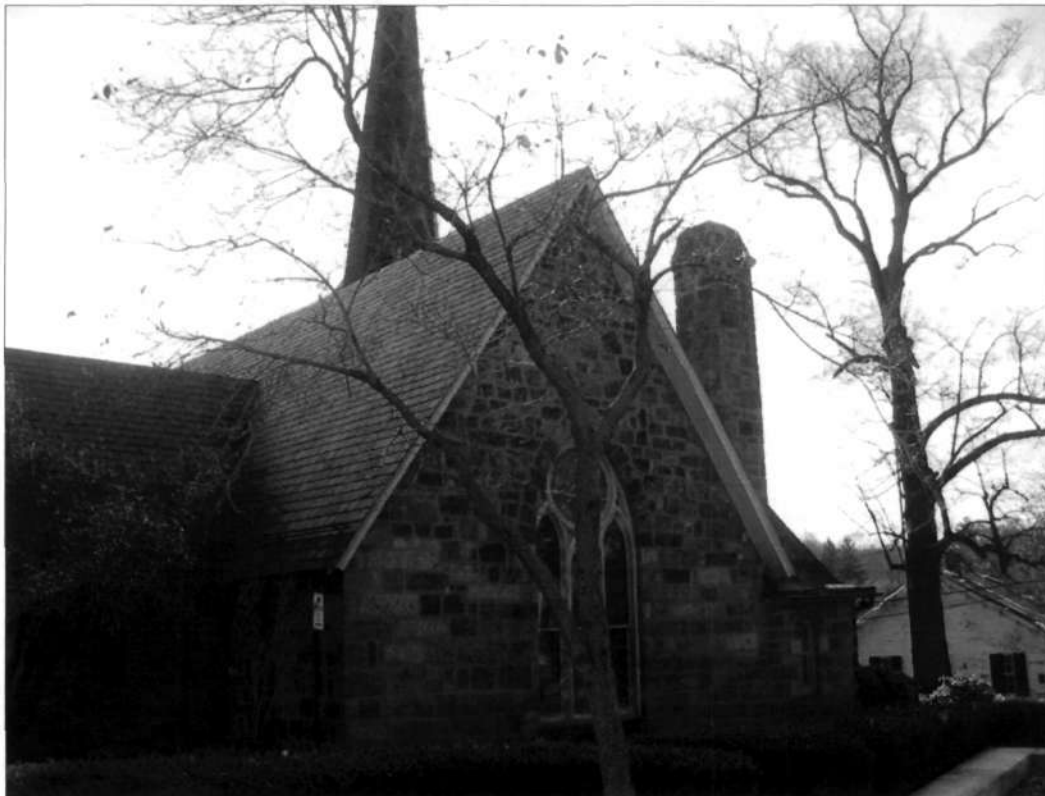
8328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

South Elevation



West elevation



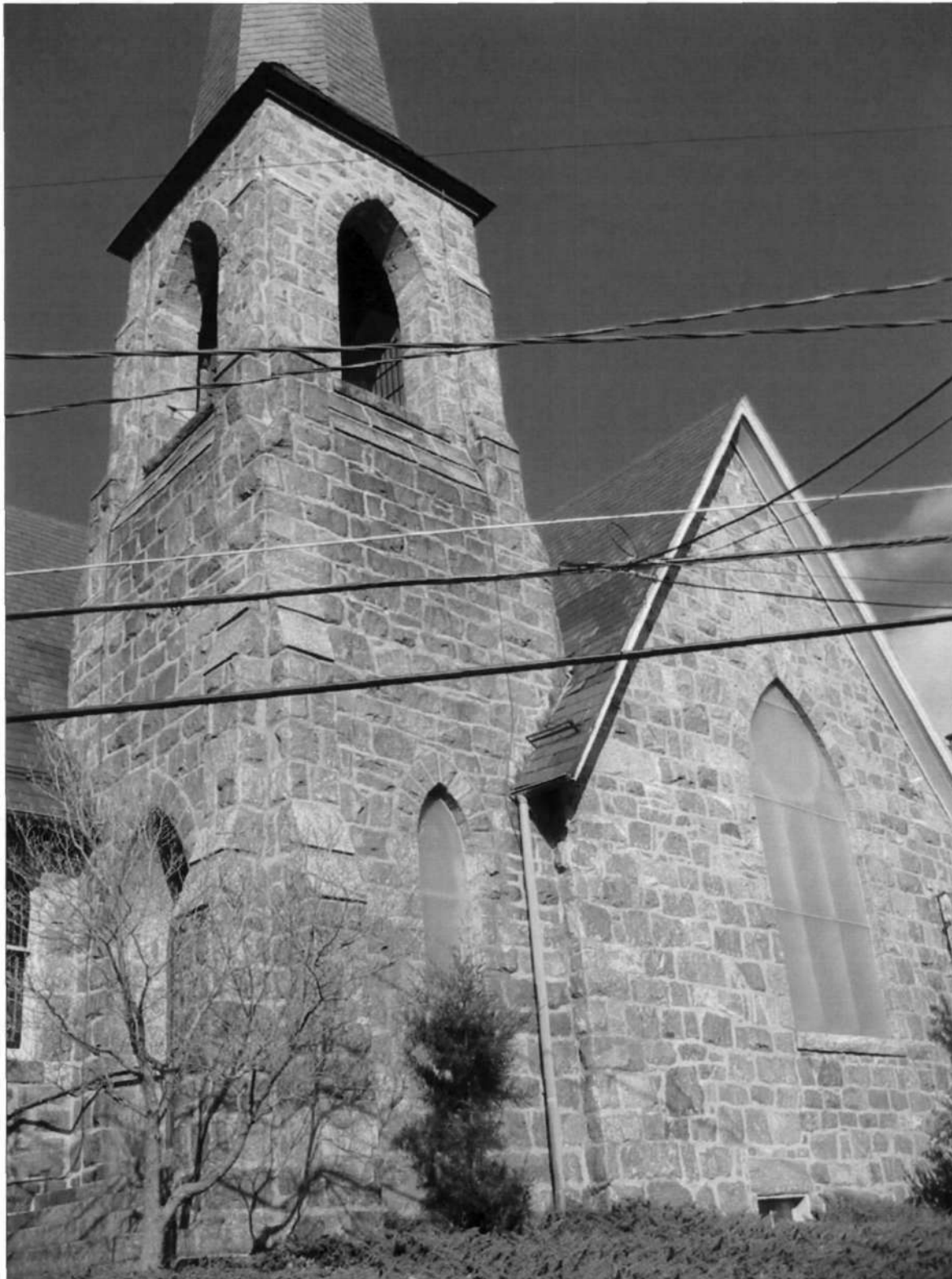
HO-50

First Presbyterian Church (Howard County Historical Society Building)

8328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

East elevation



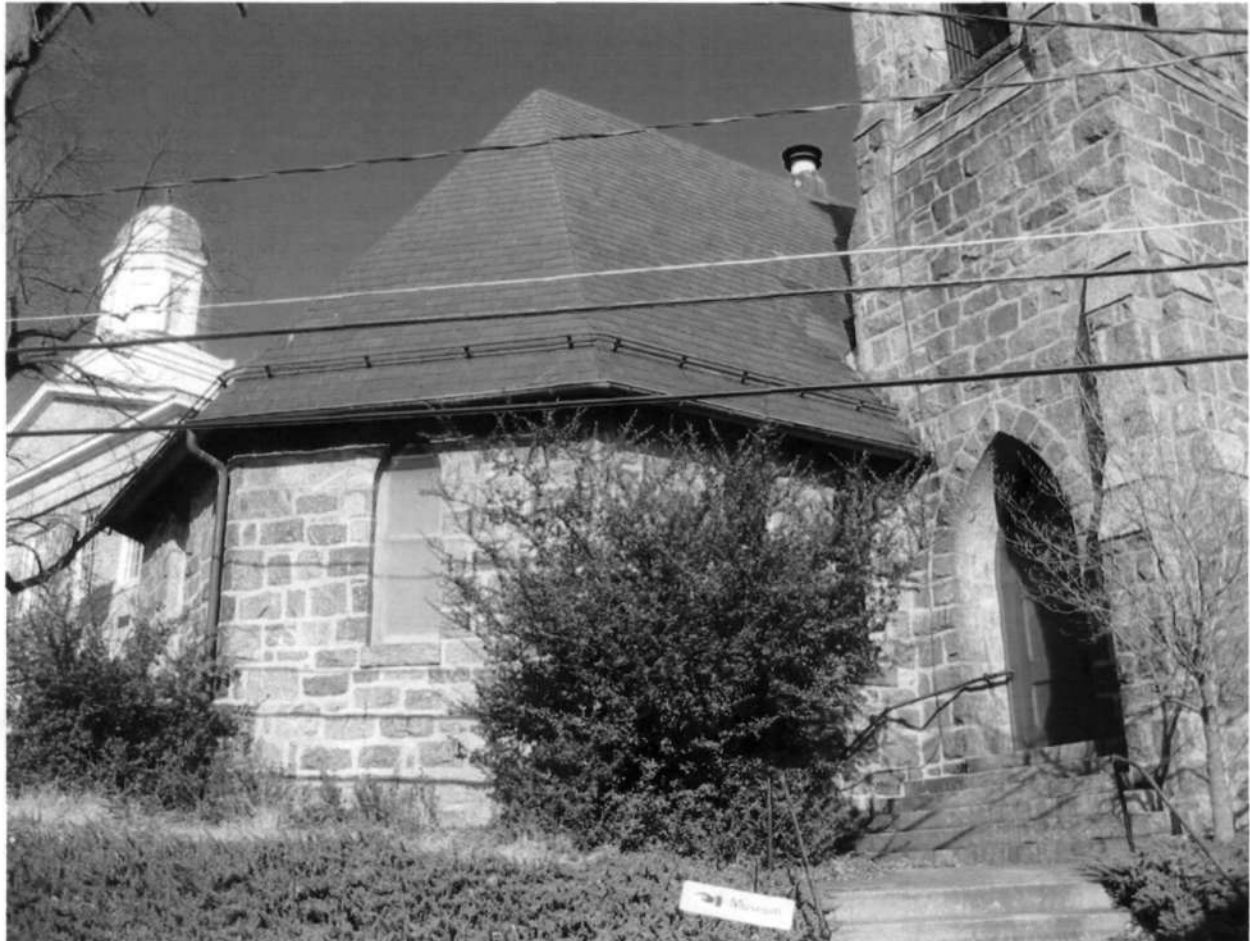
HO-50

First Presbyterian Church (Howard County Historical Society Building)

8328 Court Avenue, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

Southeast elevation





CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

Ho. 50 HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(WEST)
MAR. 77



Hb 50

88 10/72

Ellicott-Gt

Howard Co. Historical Society



H0 50

Ellis H City

FACE

BS 10/72

Howard Co Historical Society